

## Spiritual Warfare: Womanhood, pt. 2 Titus 2:1-8

The theme of Titus — sound doctrine produces sound behavior. Without sound doctrine, there is only chaos and confusion. Titus, the pastor of the church on the island of Crete, has tough job. Cretain culture had deteriorated so badly, that they were the brunt of jokes in the region.

### II. Young Women (Titus 2:4b–5)

Paul is speaking to young, married women. He speaks first to all young women who are married (v. 4b), then to those who have children, natural or adopted (v. 4c), and then again to all young wives (v. 5). No biblical standard is more viciously attacked today than the God-ordained role of women in society. The serpent is still striking!

**First**, Paul continues by saying that, by their godly teaching and example, older women in the church are to train/encourage *the young women to love their husbands*. Paul is speaking here of a *committed love that godly wives choose to have for their husbands, just as godly husbands choose to have for their wives* (Eph. 5:25, 28). *Philandros* is a noun, here rendered *to love ... husbands, and refers to willing, determined love that is not based on a husband's worthiness but on God's command and that is extended by a wife's affectionate and obedient heart*. This sort of love of husbands and wives for each other involves unqualified devotedness and is a friendship that is strong and deep. This is a bond that cannot be broken until death do you part.

**Second**, *young women who are mothers are to be encouraged to love their children*. Whether the children are naturally born or are adopted, they are to be loved with a love that, like the love of spouses for each other, should be selfless and sacrificial. This is not an option. It is not based on the children's physical attractiveness or personalities or intelligence but *on their need*. Paul's admonition here is inclusive: physical, emotional, mental, spiritual - it's the entire child. Why did Paul stress that young Christian women should love their husbands and families? There are forces at work in today's world that undermine even this very basic part of family life. Women are being told that their interests or desires come first, that they must seek what makes them happy before they can be good wives and mothers. While women should be encouraged to use their gifts and abilities, each Christian woman must align her priorities with God's wisdom, not the world's values.

**Third**, according to verse 5, *married young women are to be self-controlled/sensible*. This is the same quality that should characterize elders (1:8), all older men (2:2), and, in fact, all believers (2:12). Common sense and good judgment should improve with age, but they should be evident even in early adulthood. The focus once again is on the mind; on having a sensible outlook on life that will filter down into sensible behavior

**Fourth**, *young women are to be pure*. *Hagnos* (pure) refers primarily *to moral purity, and, especially in this context, to sexual purity, marital faithfulness*. Sex is worshiped in our culture, just like the Cretian culture. Promiscuity in many parts of our culture is fine.

**Fifth**, *married young women are to be working/busy at home (oikourgous)*. This exhortation is for young, married women who have children at home. Paul's point is not so much that a woman's place is in the home as that her *responsibility is for the home. The home is a wife's special domain and always should be her highest priority*. That is where she can offer the most encouragement and support to her husband and is the best place for extending hospitality. To modern readers, Paul seems chauvinistic, but the context does not support the charge. In first-century cultures, including the Greco-Roman culture that dominated the Roman Empire, the home was the domain of the woman. He was not defining or limiting a woman's place; he was addressing women where they were. This is not a picture of enslavement but of useful enterprise—this is what a woman does.

**Sixth**, *young women are to be kind*. The word translated “kind” [agathos] literally means “good” or “useful for a purpose.” They are to be gentle, considerate, amiable, congenial, and sympathetic, even with those who are undeserving and unkind to them. To be kind is to be Godlike, “for [God] Himself,” Jesus said, “is kind to ungrateful and evil men” (Luke 6:35). Similarly, Paul admonishes believers to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven you” (Eph. 4:32). Linked with the previous admonition, “to be working/busy at home” (oikourgous) would indicate *an efficient management of household responsibilities, and “kind” (agatha) would indicate a lack of irritability considering the nagging demands of mundane and routine household duties*.

**Seventh**, and finally, *married young women are to be submissive/subject to their own husbands*. (Eph. 5:22-24) We live in a world that seeks its own rights regardless of the consequences. Although fully God, Christ voluntarily submitted to His Father's will. Submission to Christ, is a good summary of genuine faith. Although completely equal with men in worth and value, when women graciously submit to their own husbands, they show to everyone what Godly submission is. Equality of the sexes does not negate the distinction of the sexes.

Why is this so important?

*That the word of God may not be reviled/dishonored*. Paul gives a similar admonition in 1 Timothy 5:14-15 to young widows. Whenever and in whatever way Satan's will is accomplished, God's glory is tarnished, and His word is reviled/dishonored. Reviled/Dishonored translates *blasphemeo*, which means “to blaspheme or defame.” Paul's point is that not only the evil things we say, and we do, but also the good things that we fail to say and do, dishonor God and His Word before the church and before the world.

Alex McFarland, author of *Abandoned Faith: Why Millennials Are Walking Away and How You Can Lead Them Home*, says that the breakdown of the family is the single most prevalent reason so many Millennials have walked away from Christianity. Jason Jimenez, his co-author said: “I could see now why they questioned God, His nature, and His ...love.” “If what their parents believed was true, why didn't they live it? If God is so loving, why didn't their parents show that same love to each other?”

Satan is destroying our culture. He is weakening the witness of the church because she is willing to listen to His lies and the lies of the culture. Bethel, may we be counter cultural. May we stand up to the nonsense of our culture by standing on and obeying the word of God. May our obedience point the unbelieving, Godless culture to Christ. People's souls are at stake.